

REMARKS

This paper is responsive to any paper(s) indicated above, and is responsive in any other manner indicated below.

PENDING CLAIMS

Claims 1-4 were pending, under consideration and subjected to examination in the Office Action. Appropriate claims have been amended, canceled and/or added (without prejudice or disclaimer) in order to adjust a clarity and/or focus of Applicant's claimed invention. That is, such changes are unrelated to any prior art or scope adjustment and are simply refocused claims in which Applicant is present interested. At entry of this paper, Claims 1-4 will be pending for further consideration and examination in the application.

ABSTRACT OBJECTION - REPLACEMENT ABSTRACT SHEET

The abstract has been objected to because of the Office Action concerns listed within the section "Specification" on page 2 of the Office Action. As the attached replacement abstract sheet is believed to be of proper form, reconsideration and withdrawal of the objection to the abstract, are respectfully requested. In the event that the present replacement abstract is itself found not to be of proper form, the Examiner is herein authorized to amend to a suitable replacement abstract. With respect to any past, present or any ultimately implemented Abstract or amendment thereof, Applicant would like to reiterate and

embrace the 37 CFR 1.72(b) provisions that "The abstract will not be used for interpreting the scope of the claims."

REJECTION UNDER 35 USC '103

The 35 USC '103 rejection of claims 1 and 3 as being unpatentable over iQue 3600 in view of Makoto et al. (JP 06-323863); and the rejection of claims 2 and 4 as being unpatentable over iQue 3600 in view of Makoto et al. (JP 06-323863) and Yokoyama (U.S. Patent 5,654,908), is respectfully traversed. However, such rejections have been rendered obsolete by the present clarifying amendments to Applicant's claims, and accordingly, traversal arguments are not appropriate at this time. However, Applicant respectfully submits the following to preclude renewal of any such rejections against Applicant's clarified claims.

All descriptions of Applicant's disclosed and claimed invention, and all descriptions and rebuttal arguments regarding the applied prior art, as previously submitted by Applicant in any form, are repeated and incorporated hereat by reference. Further, all Office Action statements regarding the prior art rejections are respectfully traversed. As additional arguments, Applicant respectfully submits the following.

According to clarified claims 1-4, Applicant's navigation system identifies a feature in which a data size of link data from a memory can be identified. According to the navigation system, when it attempts to obtain link data, it can identify the data size of the link data without accessing link data in a storage. Thus, a process such that unnecessary access to the link data is taken place, even when the link data can not be developed on the memory, can be avoided. The navigation system of

Applicant's present invention, for example, can execute a process to save extra room in the memory to develop p the link data before accessing to the link data. Thus, one distinguishing feature of Applicant's present invention is that a time for acquiring process of the link data at the time of route searching process, can be shortened and is effectively achieved.

In contrast, none of iQue3600, JP06-323863 and US5,654,908 (Yokoyama et al), taken individually or in the applied combinations, discloses or suggests that the navigation system checks a data size of link data within each mesh area stored in memory, and confirms whether or not the data link can be developed on the memory at the time when a route searching is being processed.

Further, Applicant's invention according to claims 1 and 3 discloses that a route searching process in a periphery of the current position of the vehicle is executed before the user sets a destination, i.e., "before the setting of a destination". In other words, the route searching from the current position to the intersections in the periphery is able to be started before the time when the destination is set by the user. Thus, according to Applicant's present invention, a route searching process which is conventionally conducted after the setting of the destination is completed can be started before the destination setting so that the time period for searching the recommended route (time period from the setting of a destination to the presentation of a recommended route to the user) is able to be shortened.

In contrast, iQue3600 does not disclose or suggest such feature of Applicant's present invention, that a route from the periphery of the current position to the intersection can be searched "before the destination is set".

Also, JP06-323863 explains that a route to the intersection is able to be searched after the departure point and the destination are set (Refer to paragraphs 0020-0023 and Figs. 1 and 6).

As a result of the foregoing, Applicant respectfully submits that Applicant's clarified claims 1-4 are unobvious over the cited references, and the rejection could be withdrawn.

As a result of all of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that the applied art (taken alone and in the Office Action combinations) would not support a '103 obviousness-type rejection of Applicant's claims. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of such '103 rejection, and express written allowance of all of the '103 rejected claims, are respectfully requested.

EXAMINER INVITED TO TELEPHONE

The Examiner is herein invited to telephone the undersigned attorneys at the local Washington, D.C. area telephone number of 703/312-6600 for discussing any Examiner's Amendments or other suggested actions for accelerating prosecution and moving the present application to allowance.

RESERVATION OF RIGHTS

It is respectfully submitted that any and all claim amendments and/or cancellations submitted within this paper and throughout prosecution of the present application are without prejudice or disclaimer. That is, any above statements, or any present amendment or cancellation of claims (all made without prejudice or disclaimer), should not be taken as an indication or admission that any

objection/rejection was valid, or as a disclaimer of any scope or subject matter.

Applicant respectfully reserves all rights to file subsequent related application(s) (including reissue applications) directed to any/all previously claimed limitations/features which have been subsequently amended or cancelled, or to any/all limitations/features not yet claimed, i.e., Applicant continues (indefinitely) to maintain no intention or desire to dedicate or surrender any limitations/features of subject matter of the present application to the public.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicant respectfully submits that the claims listed above as presently being under consideration in the application are now in condition for allowance.

To the extent necessary, Applicant petitions for an extension of time under 37 CFR '1.136. Authorization is herein given to charge any shortage in the fees, including extension of time fees and excess claim fees, to Deposit Account No. 01-2135 (Case No. 566.46259X00) and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Based upon all of the foregoing, allowance of all presently-pending claims is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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